



Memorandum

To: NFHS Executive Directors

From: Karissa Niehoff

Subject: NFHS Swimming and Diving Suit Coverage

Date: August 7, 2019

There is a growing trend in high school swimming and diving of athletes wearing training and competitive suits in a manner that contradicts with the intention of their original design and manufacture. Specifically, suits are being worn in such a way as to expose the athlete's buttocks. This issue is not gender specific and is occurring in various states across the country.

The NFHS Swimming and Diving Committee has addressed this concern in the previous two years by including commentary in the 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 Points of Emphasis of the Swimming and Diving Rules Book. In 2018, the committee mandated pre-meet coaches and athlete meetings. These are excellent opportunities to address legal attire and for the coach to verify that his/her swimmers are legally equipped. In addition, the penalty protocol for suit coverage infractions was reorganized in the 2019-20 Swimming and Diving Rules Book to emphasize that officials should notify the competitor's coach, not the competitor, in reference to suit coverage violations.

The Swimming and Diving Rules Committee offers the attached resources to help educate administrators, coaches, officials, parents, and athletes. Realizing that this is not an issue in all states, we are providing this material to Executive Directors only, so that you may determine whether its dissemination is appropriate for your state association.